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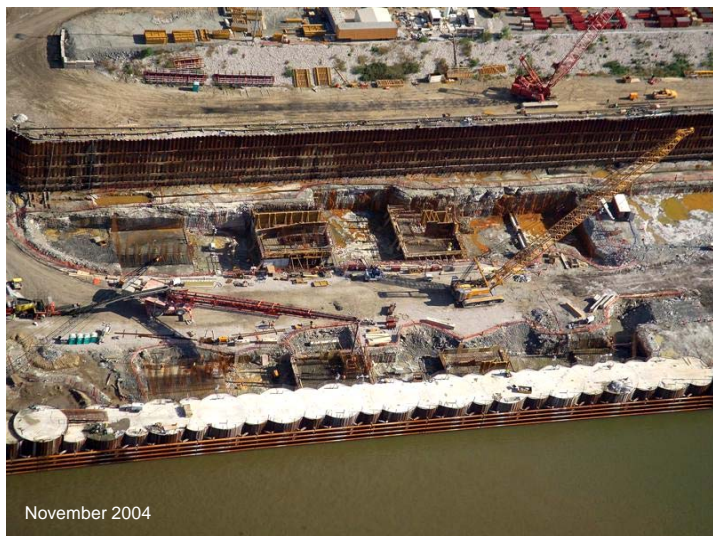
# Marmet Locks and Dam Replacement Project

November 2004

Issue No. 12

This newsletter is provided as a courtesy of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as a way to keep the citizens of Belle, W.Va. up-to-date on activities during construction of the replacement lock at Marmet Locks and Dam. The newsletter will provide information on current and future activities throughout the construction of the replacement lock to those who expressed an interest in receiving the newsletter from previous editions.

If you know someone who would like to receive future copies, complete the form on the back page of this newsletter.



*Aerial view shows the many operations that make up construction of the new lock chamber: rock excavation, foundation cleaning, concrete formwork, reinforcing cages and concrete placement which are occurring behind the protection of the cofferdam (forefront).*

## *Who to contact for information:*

Mike Keathley, Project Manager.....304-399-5864

Dennis Hughes, Resident Engineer.....304-949-1935

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Peggy Noel, Public Affairs.....304-399-5551

Marmet Website: <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/current/marmet/>

## *Batch Plant is in the Mix by Kokosing/Fru-Con*

For a project this size, having the ability to produce our own concrete was an absolute necessity. Therefore, the batch plant was one of the first pieces of construction started on the job. Prior to coming to the Marmet Locks and Dam Project, this plant was located on its prior owner's project in Olmstead, Illinois, where many early Marmet employees went to prepare it for the move to West Virginia. Once the plant was moved to Belle, it was reconstructed and revamped over a period of more than one year by a combined hard-work effort of ironworkers, operators, laborers, supervision, and outside consultants.

Over the batch plant operations is "Batch Plant Bob" Christian who originates from Northern Idaho. Many might say Bob can be a *batch* of trouble, but when it comes to knowing his job, Bob is a *batch* of experience and knowledge. Bob supervised this type of operation in places all over the world, including Georgia, Arizona, Wyoming, Arkansas, New Mexico, Utah, Montana, Washington, Canada, and even China.

Also bringing a wealth of experience to his job is Jerry "Bobcat" Smith who oversees the ammonia operations for the plant. For the past eight years, Bobcat has performed this type of work, many times on the same job as Bob.

Bobcat oversees the ammonia cooling system needed when weather conditions make it necessary for additional cooling of the concrete. There can be great risks involved in the case of a leak or damage to the system, and it is Bobcat's almost-24-hour-a-day job, along with help from the whole crew, to ensure everything is how it should be and no damage occurs.

Completing this tight-knit crew are the rest of the regular batch plant team consisting of Fred Shamblin, Dan Engel, George Jones, Rhonda "Bear" McGraw, Joe McVey, and Ed Brown. This crew has become one big family enjoying time together outside of work as well as on site.

During the month of August, with foundation preparation being performed on the Lock floor, the Batch Plant prepared for a two-week shutdown from production for maintenance.

There was a great deal of preventative maintenance and start-up installation needed. One of the most time-consuming jobs was re-lining one of the two 12 CY mixers. Special jacks were made to hold down the new liners to be welded in place due to the worn areas in the drum.

As on all parts of the job, safety in the Batch Plant work is the primary concern. The Batch Plant crew has had **ZERO ACCIDENTS**. Good communication and alertness are a must in this operation.

*This crew does an exceptional job everyday, and this month in LockLights we are proud to highlight them.*



Rock excavation inside the new Marmet lock chamber prepares the foundations of new lock walls for concrete.

### *Community Relations*

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Maj. Matthew Orenstein, has been deployed by the Army to serve a tour in Iraq and will be unable to serve as community relations liaison for the Marmet Lock Replacement project. The Corps is actively recruiting a replacement to fill this important position. In the meantime, you may refer any comments or concerns to either Resident Engineer Dennis Hughes or Project Manager Mike Keathley.

Following the next workshop, the Corps will use this newsletter to provide a listing of concerns and issues raised at information meetings and the status of what is happening with these concerns.

### *Information Meeting*

The Corps of Engineers and Marmet lock replacement contractor Kokosing Fru-Con will conduct an information workshop/open house regarding the Marmet Lock replacement project **Thursday, December 2, 2004**, at the offices of Kokosing Fru-Con located at 1901 West Dupont Avenue. The public is invited to stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The workshop will provide information about the ongoing construction activities and seek input on how the Corps and contractor can reduce impacts to the surrounding communities. Representatives from the Corps and Kokosing Fru-Con will be available to answer questions. Tours of the construction site will be offered.

For more information, contact Mike Keathley at 304-399-5864 or email [Michael.Keathley@lrh01.usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.Keathley@lrh01.usace.army.mil).

### *From Marmet to Iraq*

While construction on the Marmet Lock replacement project progressed, three members of the Marmet lock construction team were facing different obstacles and performing work far away from their normal work area. Beau Corbett, Larry Drown and Les Weber have each served tours of duty in Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Corbett, a member of the National Guard 111th Engineer Group Command of St. Albans, W. Va., began his service in March of 2003 and spent a tour of 14 months in both Kuwait and Iraq. Essentially, his mission was to create a secure staging area in Kuwait for troops and equipment coming in and out of Iraq.

Drown and Weber volunteered as Army civilians to support the Corps of Engineers mission in Iraq to repair the failing infrastructure and government facilities. Drown served a four-month tour from December 2003 until March 2004. Weber's tour began in September 2003, and he is scheduled to return to the States the end of November.

And now, another member of the Corps Marmet construction team has been called to serve a tour in Iraq. Former community liaison Maj. Matthew Orenstein recently deployed to Iraq for a military tour in support of the Army's Global War on Terrorism.

If you know someone who would like to receive future copies of the Marmet Newsletter, complete the form below and return to Mike Keathley, US Army Corps of Engineers, 502 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070 or send us an email requesting to be added to the mailing list.

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